

possibility that a prominent lobbyist may have funneled bogus campaign contributions" to Members of Congress;

Whereas the Washington Post reported on February 14, 2009, that they "examined contributions that were reported as being made by the firm's employees and consultants, and found several people who were not registered lobbyists and did not work for the lobbying firm";

Whereas Roll Call reported on February 11, 2009, that "the defense-appropriations-focused lobbying shop that the FBI raided this November" had in recent years "spread millions of campaign contributions to lawmakers";

Whereas The Hill reported on February 10, 2009, that the raided firm "earned more than \$14 million in lobbying revenue" and "specializes in obtaining earmarks in the defense budget for a long list of clients";

Whereas The Hill reported on February 10, 2009, that the 2008 clients of this firm had "received \$299 million worth of earmarks, according to Taxpayers for Common Sense";

Whereas CQ Today reported on February 19, 2009, that "104 House Members got earmarks for projects sought by clients of the firm in the 2008 defense appropriations bills," and that 87 percent of this bipartisan group of Members received campaign contributions from the raided firm;

Whereas CQ Today also reported that "Members who took responsibility for the firm's earmarks in that spending bill have, since 2001, accepted a cumulative \$1,815,138 in campaign contributions from the firm's political action committee and employees";

Whereas Roll Call reported on February 19, 2009, that a bipartisan group of four Members have made plans to divest themselves of campaign contributions received from the raided firm;

Whereas Politico reported on February 12, 2009, that "several sources said FBI agents have spent months laying the groundwork for their current investigation, including conducting research on earmarks and campaign contributions";

Whereas numerous press reports and editorials have alleged several cases of influence peddling between Members of Congress and outside interests seeking Federal funding;

Whereas such reports and editorials reflect public distrust and have raised inquiries and criticism about the integrity of congressional proceedings and the dignity of the institution; and

Whereas the House of Representatives should respond to such claims and demonstrate integrity in its proceedings;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that:

(a) The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, or a subcommittee of the committee designated by the committee and its members appointed by the chairman and ranking member, is instructed to investigate the relationship between earmark requests already

made by Members and the source and timing of past campaign contributions.

(b) The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct shall submit a report of its findings to the House of Representatives within 2 months after the date of adoption of this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Arizona will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

THE ARC OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

(Mr. KLEIN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding organization in my Congressional District, the Arc of Palm Beach County. The Arc works to improve the lives of children and adults with developmental and mental disabilities, as well as their families.

Arc programs, which include therapeutic education and Community Inclusion Services, are invaluable to their clients and our community. From young couples raising their children with disabilities, to aging parents working to care for their adult children, families depend on the Arc for essential services.

I am committed to standing up for children and adults with disabilities, whether it is supporting the majority leader's ADA Restoration Act or fighting for increased funds for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

I'm looking forward to addressing the Arc's first annual Arc Angels luncheon this Friday in West Palm Beach. And I congratulate all of the hard-working staff at the Arc, as well as their President, Executive Director and Board of Directors. Their efforts will have a valuable and lasting impact on South Florida.

SOMEBODY IS SMOKING SOMETHING THAT'S ILLEGAL

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, if what I'm about to say wasn't so sad, it would be funny.

We've spent \$700 billion in TARP, \$14 billion for the auto bailout, and that's

just the beginning, \$738 billion in the so-called stimulus, and that does not include the interest that will take us over \$1 trillion. \$410 billion that's coming up in the omnibus spending bill, probably another \$100 billion in supplemental. And the President today with his staff people down there was talking about national health care. Lord only knows how much that's going to cost.

And Mr. Geithner is spending 1 to \$2 trillion, he says, to help the financial institutions in this country to stay above water.

And then the President said today he's going to cut the deficit in half in the next 4 years. It does not add up. How in the world are you going to do that when you're spending all this money, printing all this money, asking China to loan us more money? It just doesn't work. Somebody must be smoking something that's illegal.

COMMENDING STATE SENATOR JAMES MEEKS

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend State Senator James Meeks, who is also pastor of the House of Hope Church in Chicago, which is the largest church in the city that holds more than 10,000 people.

Well, on Saturday morning, Reverend State Senator Meeks called a community meeting to help people understand the economic stimulus package. As cold as it was, more than 2,000 people came, representatives from every walk of life, the Governor's office, all of the other municipal offices. And I simply commend him for this initiative, for giving the people of Illinois an opportunity to better understand the stimulus package.

SECRETARY CLINTON'S MISSED OPPORTUNITY IN CHINA

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my voice to the chorus of human rights organizations who have expressed shock and disappointment at Secretary Clinton's comments during a recent Asia trip indicating that human rights will not be a priority in her engagement with China.

We need to look no further than the Sharanskys and the Solzhenitsyns of recent history to know that bold and public proclamations on the importance of liberty, freedom and absence of repression are cause for great hope to those political prisoners who languish behind bars. Words have power, the power to inspire or deflate, to give vision or stifle hope. But for words to inspire the hope for a day when the Chinese people can worship freely, where the press is not censored, where political dissent is permitted, they must first be spoken.